

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ARA-10 /099 W
-----052286 150651Z /11

R 141210Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3548
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11024

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, CG, AO
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA II

1. IN JUNE 13 DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE, MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE RAISED QUESTION OF INVOLVEMENT OF ANGOLANS IN SHABA II. RACHELE SAID THAT ITALIAN READING OF ANGOLAN PRESS, AND COMPARISON OF COVERAGE OF SHABA I AND II, LED TO CONCLUSION THAT ANGOLA HAS MADE GREAT EFFORT TO PLAY DOWN SHABA II. WHILE LAST YEAR'S NEWSPAPERS CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLES ON "HEROISM OF KATANGESE FREEDOM FIGHTERS", THIS YEAR COVERAGE HAS BEEN MINIMAL.

2. RACHELE ADDED THAT ANGOLAN EMBASSY IN ROME HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO POINT OUT TO ITALIANS THAT ANGOLANS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN SHABA II. ANGOLANS TOLD MFA THAT THEY WERE SURPRISED BY INVASION ITSELF THAT THEY REFUSED APPEAL OF KATANGESE IN KOLWEZI TO SEND IN ANGOLAN OR CUBAN PILOTS TO
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FLY OUT AIRPLANES FOUND AT KOLWEZI AIRPORT WHEN THE KATANGESE CAPTURED IT, THAT ANGOLANS DO NOT CONSIDER KATANGESE TO BE TRUE SOCIALISTS NOR MEMBERS OF BONA FIDE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT BUT RATHER RIGHT WING SECESSIONISTS WHO ARE TSHOMBE'S IDEOLOGICAL HEIRS, THAT THE REASON KATANGESE CAME INTO SHABA BY WAYS OF ZAMBIA WAS THAT ANGOLANS PREVENTED THEM FROM CROSSING ANGOLAN BORDER INTO ZAIRE,

THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT OFFERED HELP TO ANY AFRICAN OR EUROPEAN REFUGEE FORCED TO FLEE FROM KATANGESE INTO ANGOLA, AND THAT ANGOLANS ARE KEEPING PRINCIPLE KATANGESE GENERAL UNDER CONTROL IN LUANDA. ANGOLANS ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAVE DONE A "SURVEY" OF NATIONAL LIBERATION SENTIMENT IN ZAIRE AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NO SUCH MOVEMENT REALLY EXISTS THERE ONLY TRIBAL SECESSIONIST GROUPS. ANGOLANS HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT KATANGESE WHO ARE CONSIDERED TOO UNSTABLE AND THAT THEY WOULD RATHER TRY TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES WITH WHOEVER IS IN CONTROL IN KINSHASA, EVEN MOBUTU. RACHELE ADDED THAT WHILE ITAALIANS DISCOUNT ANGOLAN PRESENTATION TO SOME EXTENT THEY DO GIVE IT CERTAIN DEGREE OF CREDENCE. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INTERVENTION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME11024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-1044
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780660/aaaabzrd.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 186b3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2356672
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA II
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/186b3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014